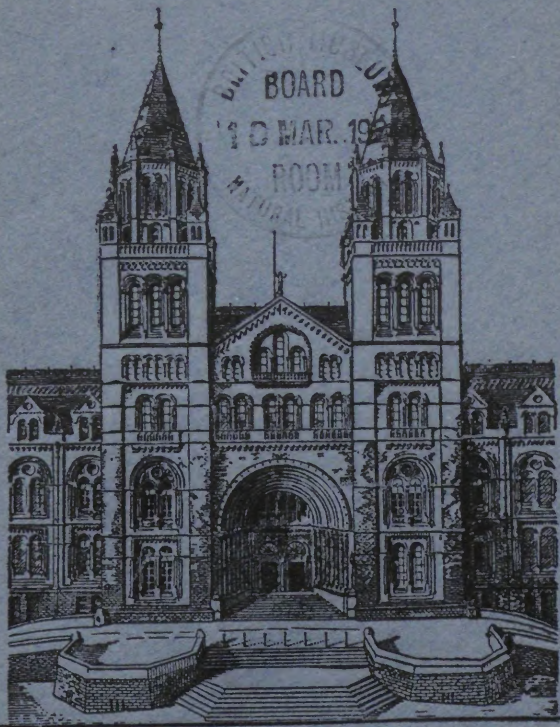


British Museum (Natural History)



EXOTIC DRAGONFLIES  
(ODONATA)

*5 Cards in Colour*

Set E 14

One Shilling



# EXOTIC DRAGONFLIES

A group of three Oriental *Calopterygidae*

(a) *Vestalis melania* (b) *Rhinocypha fulgipennis* (c) *Rhinocypha iridea*

Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

# POST CARD.

THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR PRINTED OR WRITTEN  
MATTER.

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE  
WRITTEN HERE

STAMP.

a



b



# EXOTIC DRAGONFLIES

(a) *Lais pudica*

(b) *Heterina americana*

Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

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EXOTIC DRAGONFLIES

*Chlorogomphus magnificus*

Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

Produced by W. F. Sedgwick, Limited

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# EXOTIC DRAGONFLIES

(a) *Celithemis eponina*

(b) *Pseudoleon superbus*

Natural size

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# EXOTIC DRAGONFLIES

*Neurothemis tullia* (a) male, (b) female (c) *Rhyothemis phyllis*  
Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

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## EXOTIC DRAGONFLIES (Odonata).

The five cards included in this series are reproductions of colour photographs of species in the Museum Collection. They are designed to illustrate some of the various schemes of coloration which adorn the wings of certain kinds of dragonflies. The majority of Odonata have clear, uncoloured wings; some have the longitudinal veins brilliantly metallic, and others have the wings more or less completely pigmented. In the case of species with coloured wings, it is almost the invariable rule that the males differ very considerably in appearance from the females.

### E 86. A group of three Oriental Calopterygidae.

The male of *Vestalis melania* (above), a species peculiar to the Philippine Islands, is often regarded as the most beautiful of all dragonflies, on account of the magnificent coloration of its wings, which are royal blue, with green and purple reflections. The female, which is not shown, is a much less attractive-looking insect.

The specimen of *Rhinocypha fulgipennis*, placed on the left, came from Annam, while the example of *Rh. iridea* on the right, was obtained in Burma. Both of them are males, and they illustrate very well a type of iridescent coloration which is quite common in this genus.

E 87. *Hetaerina americana* (lower figure) and *Lais pudica* (upper figure) afford good examples of a particular kind of colour seldom met with in the wings of Odonata. Both of them belong to the family Calopterygidae, and are found only in the warmer regions of the New World. The genus *Hetaerina* is a large one, and its different species present a pleasing series of variations upon a type of wing decoration common to them all.

The more extensively coloured wings of the male of *Lais pudica*, however, are unusual in the genus to which it belongs, both as to the redness and the extent of the coloration. In the female of this species the wings are less extensively coloured than in the male, and remain brownish throughout life.

E 88. *Chlorogomphus magnificus* inhabits Java and Sumatra, and belongs to a small group of archaic dragonflies (Chlorogomphinae) confined

to the Oriental region. Only female specimens of this species have been discovered up to the present time, and these are remarkable for the great size and very unusual coloration of their wings. The yellow patch near the base of the hind wings consists of opaque pigment, while the darker areas above and beyond it are made up of masses of brownish cells with yellow or red centres. It is not yet known whether the corresponding males have clear wings, or wings pigmented like those of the females.

E 89. *Celithemis eponina* (upper figure), a native of North America, might easily be mistaken for a member of the Old World genus *Rhyothemis*, such as *Rh. graphiptera*, of Australia. The resemblance, however, is not due to near affinity, as the connection between these two Libelluline genera is not a particularly close one.

*Pseudoleon superbus* (lower figure), belongs to the same subfamily, and is a native of Mexico and adjoining countries. In the peculiar coloration of its wings it bears a general resemblance to the larger kinds of Ant-lions (*Myrmeleonidæ*), and derives its generic name from this fact. It has, however, no near relationships with those insects.

E 90. *Neurothemis tullia* (upper and middle figures), a characteristic Oriental Libelluline, presents a good example of the widely different type of wing decoration which often distinguishes the two sexes of the same species. On the other hand, *Rhyothemis phyllis* (bottom figure), another Libelluline from the Oriental region, shows little or no sexual difference of this kind.

Set E 14.

February, 1924.